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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR       | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/540,947      | 03/31/2000  | Karim Mohie El Din Hussein | MIT-057AUS          | 2548             |

22494 7590 04/02/2004

DALY, CROWLEY & MOFFORD, LLP  
SUITE 101  
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CANTON, MA 02021-2310

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| EXAMINER |
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HAILU, TADESSE

|          |              |
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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2173

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/540,947

Applicant(s)

KARIM MOHIE EL DIN HUSSEIN

Examiner

Tadesse Hailu

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-52 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5. 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the RESPONSE entered January 7, 2004 for the patent application (09/540,947) filed March 31, 2000. Since the applicant elected claims 1-5, the Office action is in response to the elected claims. Although a preliminary amendment was filed on 1/12/2004 after the applicant elected the above claims, the preliminary amendment was not entered because entry of the amendment would unduly interfere with the preparation of the Office action. See 37 CFR 1.115(b). The examiner spent a significant amount of time on the preparation of an Office action (restriction/election dated 10/3/2003) and subsequent analysis of the claims. The examiner conducted extensive class/sub class searching to prepare the Office action before the preliminary amendment was received for review.

Furthermore, entry of the preliminary amendment would require significant additional time on the preparation of the Office action. Specifically, entry of the preliminary amendment would require the examiner to revise the Office action extensively to address the new issues raised and the new claims added in the preliminary amendment.

A responsive reply (under 37 CFR 1.111 or 37 CFR 1.113 as appropriate) to this Office action must be timely filed to avoid abandonment.

If this is not a final Office action, applicant may wish to resubmit the amendment along with a responsive reply under 37 CFR 1.111 to ensure proper entry of the amendment.

#### Priority

2. The present application claims priority from domestic US Application 60/127,672 filed April 2, 1999.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The submitted Information Disclosure Statement with references is considered and entered into the file.

Status of the claims

4. The elected claims 1-5 are examined as follows:

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hussein et al, "CAIRO: A System for Facilitating Communication in a Distrusted Collaborative Engineering Environment," 1995 in view of Kelly et al, "A Facilitator's General Model for Managing Socio-Emotional Issues in Group Support Systems Meeting Environments," pages 114-123, IEEE, 1997.

Kelly's paper describes the socio-emotional dimension that exists in a Group Support System (GISS) meeting environments from the perspective of the facilitator

With regard to claim 1:

Hussein discloses a collaboration agent interaction and synchronization system (CAIRO), which is a conferencing system, CAIRO system includes a plurality of participants (see fig. 2); CAIRO system also includes a plurality of moderators (facilitators) (see section 4);

CAIRO system also describes each of said facilitator agents associated with a corresponding one of said plurality of participants (see section 4.1, Fig. 4), the moderators (facilitator agents) in CAIRO system include means for monitoring communication of a participant in the conferencing system (see sections 2, 3, and 3.2); the moderators (facilitator agents) in CAIRO system include also includes means for comparing the communication of the participant to a predetermined set of communication passages (see sections 3.1.2 and 3.1.3); and the moderators (facilitator agents) in CAIRO system further include means for providing a prompt to a participant in the conferencing system in response to the means for comparing finding a match between the communication of a participant and one of the predetermined set of communication passages (see sections 3-3.1.2).

While the CAIRO system describes social issues, social interaction, but the CAIRO system does not explicitly describe the role of social agents as claimed in the present invention. Kelly relates to a Group Support Systems (GSS) Meeting Environments, such as group meetings. Kelly also describes the role of social agents in this environment. The GSS system also includes a plurality of social agents each of said social agents associated with a corresponding one of said plurality of participants (see sections 2-3), the social agents in GSS system include means for monitoring relevant components of a design environment and suggesting appropriate actions to be taken by a participant (see sections 3, 3.15, and 3.2) and means for learning how to effectively represent each individual of a plurality of individuals in the design environment (see section 4).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the role of the social agent described in Kelly with Hussein because these agents manages social issues in the CAIRO system meeting environment.

With regard to claim 2:

Hussein in view of Kelly further describes means for learning communication passages by being presented with one or more situation action pairs, which are classified in a rule-base such that said facilitator agent can proactively respond to future situations without user intervention (see Kelly, sections 3-3.2, Fig. 1).

With regard to claim 3:

Hussein in view of Kelly further describes means for monitoring and suggesting by being presented with one or more situation-action pairs, which are classified in a rule-base such that said social agent can proactively respond to future situations without user intervention (see Kelly, sections 3-3.2, and Fig. 1).

With regard to claim 4:

Hussein in view of Kelly further describes the social agents express an emotion of a participant (see Kelly, section 1).

With regard to claim 5:

Hussein in view of Kelly further describes said facilitator agents suggests a change of forum in response to a particular agenda item (see Hussein, section 3.1.1).

#### Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Tadesse Hailu, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2799. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:00 - 6:30 ET. If attempts to reach the

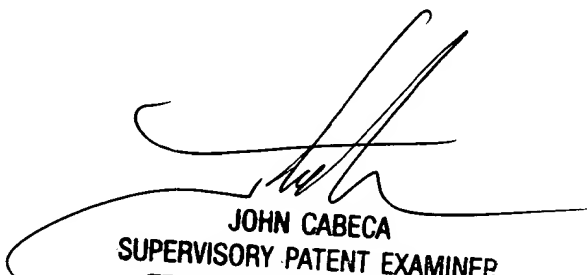
Art Unit: 2173

Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached at (703) 308-3116 Art Unit 2173 CPK 2-4A51.

7. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Tadesse Hailu

March 11, 2004



JOHN CABECA  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100